as in British India. The omission had to be remedied and he urged for a right of reference to the District Court at the instance of a Municipality dissatisfied with any award.

Section 65 was next commented upon. That Section enabled a Municipal Council to call for information required for deciding the liability of an individual to taxation. To prepare the valuation list information as to the annual value of buildings was in his opinion indispensable. But the existing Regulation afforded no help in that direction. He referred to Section 99 of the Bengal Municipal Act and Section 109 of the recent Madras City Municipal Act, both of which contained provisions enabling the local bodies concerned to obtain the information and pleaded for the insertion of similar provisions in the Municipal Regulation of this State. And lastly, he adverted to the need for the control of the sale of milk within municipal areas. Bad milk, he said, paved the way for all manner of diseases, and he prayed for the necessary provision being made in Regulation V of 1095 on the lines of Section 299 of the Madras City Municipal Act.

Dewan's reply.—Government are highly indebted to Mr. Narayana Pillai for his very valuable suggestions. Some of the defects pointed out in the Municipal Regulation are very important.

IV. PRODUCTION.—AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES.

(1) Agriculture.

46. The need for remedying certain grievances of the ryots of Nanjanad.

Mr. V. Tiruchittambalam Pillai (Member, Tovala Taluk) stated that the people of Nanjanad lived mostly by agriculture and that, in spite of the strenuous attempts made by the Government and the Department of Agriculture, the people were still following their traditional methods of agriculture and were therefore unable to make adequate profits. The people were therefore seeking employment under Government to the great detriment of agriculture. In view to give an incentive to agriculture and render it profitable, the Member suggested that the scientific methods adopted by the department might be popularised by making agriculture a compulsory subject of study in classes III to VII in the vernacular schools and up to Form III in English schools, a small agricultural farm being attached to each school so as to enable the students to practise the lessons taught to them. The Member said that the additional expenditure involved in the proposal would be more than compensated by the good resulting to the people at large. He also suggested that the establishment of agricultural farms on scientific lines in all the important villages of the taluk would contribute towards the popularisation of scientific methods.

The Member then referred to the need for more grazing grounds in Nanjanad. Agriculture had received a great stimulus by the construction of the Kodayar dam. Since then ryots had been importing agricultural live stock in large numbers and waste lands formerly used for grazing had been converted into wet lands, so much so that ryots keenly felt the want of convenient grazing grounds in the vicinity. The Member, therfore, suggested that grass required for grazing purposes be cultivated in the available waste lands not fit for other crops.

The Member went on to differentiate the value of manures derived from the leaves of trees growing on the plains such as *poovarsu, vagai, vembu, poongu*, &c., and that derived from the leaves of jungle trees, and said that the former was more useful for manurial purposes than the latter. Foreign manures were being imported in large quantities both by the department and the public resulting in great monetary drain. In view to remedy that drawback, the Member suggested that hill slopes and valleys unfit for cultivation might be denuded of all the junglewood thereon and planted up with trees like *poovarasu* and other leaf manure trees growing in the plains. He also suggested the advisability of appointing a committee consisting of the Division Peishkar, the Director of Agriculture and the Conservator of Forests for concerting measures to carry out the above suggestions. He proceeded to state that, while the ryots experienced great difficulty in the matter of finding food for cattle and were obliged to resort to outside markets for manure, it was not desirable to permit export of materials useful for the above

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

purposes, such as hay, punnac, bones and fish. He suggested that Government, besides prohibiting the export of the above mentioned articles, should either directly take up the trade in bones or lend their aid to private enterprise in that direction. The ryots in general being poor could not find funds for the purchase of manures without raising loans at high rates of interest. It was therefore desirable to make arrangements for the sale of manures on credit from the depots, at least to such of the ryots as were pattadars of lands, provision being made for realising their value at the time of harvest or in default for recovering the same under the Revenue Recovery Regulation.

He next complained that there were no facilities for the recovery of small loans and the process of recovery through Munsiff's courts involved much loss and delay. Ryots were therefore unable to raise small loans for agricultural purposes except at exhorbitant rates of interest. The need for establishing an adequate number of Panchayat courts in the taluks or villages of Nanjanad was advocated.

The Member then spoke of the paddy pest known as *urai* (ഉരായ), a ruinous weed arresting the healthy growth of paddy. The only known method of eradicating the pest was to put what were now double crop lands under single crop continuously for a period of three years. That involved loss to the ryots. He therefore prayed that, in respect of lands put under single crop for eradicating the pest, remission of tax should be allowed.

Consequent on the strained relationship between the ryots and the P. W. D. authorities, great difficulty was being experienced in the matter of getting adequate and steady supply of water for irrigation purposes and also great loss was being caused to the Government and the ryots by reason of breaches in the irrigation channels traceable to neglect on the part of the authorities concerned. In view to remedy those defects, it was desirable that the Irrigation Board system now in contemplation should be brought into being at an early date.

Lastly, the Member stated that about 2,350 candies of tobacco were being annually imported into the State *via* the frontier chowkey at Aramboly and that a sum of Rs. 2,25,600 went out of the State on account of its value. There were extensive lands at Aramboly and other places fit for tobacco cultivation. If permission be given, those lands could be brought under tobacco cultivation, with profit both to the Government and the people.

Dewan's reply.—The Member's subject covers a vast ground and it is not possible to reply in detail. All the matters mentioned by him are receiving and will continue to receive the attention of Government.

47. The needs of the people of Quilon in respect of agriculture and means of communication.

Mr C. P. Kesava Pillai (Member, Quilon Taluk) brought to the notice of Government the need for the following four branch roads for facility of communication :—

(i) A branch road from Ramankulangara market in West Quilon and connecting that market with the Marathady temple and the inland lake known as Vattakayal under the control of the Fisheries department. There was formerly a way of 20 links in width leading to Vattakayal, but as the way had since been encroached upon by adjoining land owners, it should be restored to its original width and converted into a cartable road extending to the beach and forming the northern boundary of the town limits of Quilon.

(ii) The branch village road from the 34th mile-stone on the Trivandrum-Quilon road to Kottarakara *via* Velinallur might be converted into a cartable road. That branch road would, besides conferring a great blessing on agriculturists, also increase the value of unregistered puduval lands in the vicinity.

(iii) The village road two miles in length connecting the 35th mile stone on the Trivandrum-Quilon road and the 11th mile stone on the Ayur-Ithikara road might be made cartable for the benefit alike of agriculture and of the travelling public who, in going to Ayur had to pass through a round-about way of seven miles from Chathanur.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly